

April 2016 QSP

Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club



Special points of interest:

- April Testing Session
- March Minutes
- Kingman Reef Removed from DXCC List

Change IS Constant!

April Test Session

The April Test Session, went Very well. We had Nine Candidates, All of whom Passed something. Karen Johnson, KEØFIM, of McPherson, KS. Passed her General, Eric Poe, KC7HRG, of Salina passed his General, Kyle Woolfolk, KCØTTU, of Edna passed his General. Charles Senters KEØISM, of Andover is a new General, as is Cy Sprouse, KEØISL, of Enterprise. New Technicians: Colton Peterson, KEØISK, of Lenora, his Mom Julie Peterson, KEØISJ, of Lenora, Cole Calhoun, KEØISI, of Lyons, and Jerred Moore, KEØISH, of Coffeerville. Several (most) of the candidates attempted the next higher class of license exams.

VE's in attendance were: Sid, NØOBM, Paul, KS1P, Richard, KØRCS, Alvin, WØME, and Terry NØKOM (Yep, a couple of Visiting VE's)

The FCC since going "paperless" has slowed down somewhat, and now takes almost 2 weeks to process applications. We hope they get back to the former 1 week turnaround soon.

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Reminders

Siren Test scheduled for **May 2nd**, provided the Weather cooperates! If not, then we will try again on the 9th. May Test Session is on

May the 11th at 7:00 PM at the Saline County Sheriff's Office Classroom. The May CKARC meeting is scheduled for the

27th of May at **6:30 PM** at KWU's Peters Science Hall. (**Silent Key Pot Luck Dinner Meeting**)

CKARC March 2016 Minutes

The Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club met in Peters Science Hall (Room 211) on Friday March 25th at 7:30 PM.

President Dennis Kelly, KAØLTQ, called the meeting to order. Last month's minutes were approved as printed in QSP.

Reports:

Treasurer: Pat - Checking Account Balance is \$421.00

Secretary: David - Handed out Membership Rosters to those present

Testing: Paul (in Sid's absence) - More of Clay Center was Tested

Trustee: Eric - New Repeaters have been Installed and tested—using the simplified set-up routine. Additional 25 Feet of 1/2" Hardline was installed.

Hamfest: Tom - Postcards have been printed. Cost was \$52.00

Announcements: None

New Business:

Mark Neubrand Event in Salina May 1st at Lakewood Park "Discover Salina Naturally" They would like the Radio Club to support their event with Event coordination and Vendor Check-ins. We could also set up a booth to advertise the Club and Amateur Radio. A sign up sheet was passed around among those present.

Old Business:

None was presented.

Siren Test Nets



These are "routinely" held on the First Monday of every Month—Except September - provided that the Weather is in a cooperative mood. If there are too many clouds in the sky, or if it happens to be too Cold (Winter in Kansas can be Very cold) Less than +32 Degrees, the Test will usually be postponed until the following week.

In the event that the Weather still is not in a cooperative mood on the 2nd Monday, the test will be Cancelled for the Month.

Those folks that do check in, we would like the following information: Your Call Sign (obviously), your current loca-

tion (street intersections are good enough) and if you heard a Siren (or more than one). This helps cut down on the number of folks that the Emergency Management Office has to call to see if the Sirens went off or not.

Our help on this event **IS** Greatly appreciated!

Kingman Reef (KH5) Deleted from DXCC List

03/28/2016

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted to delete Kingman Reef (KH5) from the DXCC List, effective March 29, 2016. Kingman Reef will be added to the Deleted Entities List on March 29, 2016. The total number of entities on the List will drop from 340 to 339. The deletion process is described in DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria.

"An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List."

With respect to the previous paragraph's text, Kingman Reef's original addition by virtue of separate administration has changed (separate administration by the US Navy has been removed), and the reef does not meet any current criteria to remain on the list. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) administers Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island. The reef is too close to Palmyra Island to count as a separate entity. The reef is now considered part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

DXCC members who have affirmed credit with Kingman Reef will see their *current* entity totals drop by one on their DXCC awards — including on the bands and modes where Kingman Reef credit is given. They will also see their DXCC Challenge totals drop commensurately. Honor Roll status will now be attainable after confirming 330 entities on the DXCC List.

Prior to its deletion, Kingman Reef was the seventh most-wanted DXCC entity, according to ClubLog. It was last activated as K5K in 2000, when 15 operators handed out the rare entity over the course of 10 days. Other DXpeditions have taken place over the years, however. The 1974 KP6KR Kingman Reef operation included a 2-day search to find the island, 5535 contacts in just under 30 hours of operation, and a white-knuckle departure during gale-force winds.

Islands on the Air (IOTA) Management Shifts to Not-For-Profit Company

04/21/2016

Following agreement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (**RSGB**), management of the Islands on the Air (**IOTA**) program has transitioned to "Islands on the Air (IOTA) Ltd," a new not-for-profit company. This entity will assume full responsibility for all aspects of the program. The company has been registered in the names of its current directors — Roger Balister, G3KMA, and Stan Lee, G4XXI; a full board of directors will be established.

"It will take a little time to carry through all aspects of the changed governance, but IOTA enthusiasts should be assured that the new company is fully committed to completing the paperless QSLing project that will allow electronic confirmation of contacts," Balister said.

He added that no significant policy changes are anticipated.

TAPR Dayton Hamvention Digital Forum to Include SatNOGS, HamWAN, SDR Talks

04/21/2016

TAPR has announced the presentations for its Dayton Hamvention® Digital Forum, moderated by Scotty Cowling, WA2DFI, on Friday, May 20, at 9:15 AM.

Among the presentations will be “SatNOGS — A network of open source satellite ground stations,” by Corey Shields, KB9JHU. CubeSat operators tend to have few ground stations of their own and rely on radio amateurs to help collect telemetry. The SatNOGS Project is a Network of Open Source Satellite Ground Stations, focusing on Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. Shields will introduce SatNOGS as a way to increase the amount of data collected and reported from these CubeSats.

Bryan Fields, W9CR, will present “HamWAN High-Speed IP Radio Network,” an Amateur Radio high-speed IP backbone concept that uses the same techniques enabling the Internet.

The topic of a presentation by Chris Testa, KD2BMH, will be “SDR Disrupt.” It will review the landscape and advancements in SDR technologies over the past year, as numerous technologies are driving the power-price-performance curve to a new level of efficiency. Latest developments in digital voice will also be discussed.

“Spectrum Monitoring with Software Defined Radio,” by Mike Ossmann, AD0NR, will follow.

More information about TAPR activities at Dayton is on the TAPR website

Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Communications Test Set for May 14

04/21/2016

The US Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will cosponsor the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Radio **Cross-Band Communications Test** on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The event gets under way at 1200 UTC, with activity continuing throughout the day. Some military stations may not operate for the entire period.

“New for Armed Forces Day this year, military stations and Amateur Radio operators are authorized to directly communicate on the 60 meter interoperability channels,” US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, pointed out.

This year marks the 66th Armed Forces Day (**AFD**) observance, a week later than the radio event. Armed Forces Day is observed this year on May 21, but the Military/Amateur Radio Cross-Band Communications Test is held earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Dayton **Hamvention**®. The annual communications exercise is an opportunity to test two-way communication between amateur and military communicators and features traditional military-to-amateur cross-band SSB and CW communication and offers an opportunity for radio amateurs to utilize modern military communications modes such as MIL-STD serial PSK and automatic link establishment (ALE). These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from military radio stations. QSL cards will be provided to stations that contact military stations during this event. The **complete announcement** of stations, times, and frequencies— subject to change — is available on the US Army MARS website.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations on selected amateur frequencies, which the military station operator will announce. Contacts should be limited to a minute or two, so all participants get a chance. Some stations will operate on Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) frequencies; others will use CW.

Amateur Stations with automatic link establishment (**ALE**) capability can contact military stations on specific half-duplex cross-band channels established for this purpose. Military stations will scan and receive certain Amateur HFLINK ALE frequencies, and transmit on the corresponding military ALE frequency. Military stations will also transmit ALE station identification (soundings) on each military frequency at 30 to 90-minute intervals.

The traditional Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via Military Standard radio teletype modes, described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. Reception of serial PSK will provide a technical challenge to amateur stations to receive the broadcasts using a high symbol rate serial PSK waveform not utilized in Amateur Radio, but found in all modern military equipment. See the complete schedule for details. Additional transmissions will use wide-shift FSK (RTTY), as this mode represents a baseline in interoperability common in all radio services. Most RTTY programs can be set to decode this mode. To accommodate amateurs some stations will transmit the Secretary of Defense message using common ham radio modes such as RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK31, MFSK and MT63.

Transcripts of the received text should be submitted "as received," without attempting to correct possible transmission errors. Provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, including the submitter's name, call sign, and address (with ZIP code). This information should appear on the paper containing the test message.

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense message from Army and Navy stations should send their entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Commander Netcom, ATTN: NETC-ITSMD, Bldg 90549 Jim Ave, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7070.

Stations copying Secretary of Defense message from Air Force stations, should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, 38CYRS/Chief AF MARS, 203W Losey St, Room 1200, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

FCC Invites Comments on Petition to Eliminate 15 dB Gain Limit on Amateur Amplifiers

04/27/2016

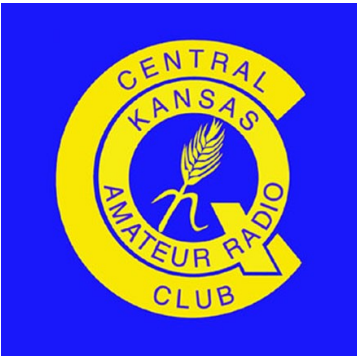
The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a *Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767)*, filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. **Expert Linears America LLC** of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its *Petition*.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a *minimum* of 50 W of drive power and subsequently did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent ***Report and Order*** in the docket.

"Although no party advocated retention of the 15 dB limit, it remains in place today," Expert pointed out in its filing. "In the intervening years, advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, Expert seeks to remove the 15 dB limit from §97.317 so that Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors will not be forced to needlessly cripple their amplifiers for sale in the United States."

Expert pointed to its Model 1.3K FA amplifier as an example of a linear "inherently capable of considerably more than 15 dB of amplification," which would make it a suitable match for low-power transceivers now on the market having output power on the order of 10 W.



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Your issue of QSP is Here!

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We are on the Web

www.w0cy.org

Changes!

Please bear with us as we work out some "New" Bugs!

We are also (as usual) running into "Time" issues—there never seems to be enough of it in a month!

Sid NØOBM
